¶ At VVhite-hall the foure and twentieth of October 1627.

Present{
*Lo: Keeper.* | *E: of Dorſet.* | *M. Treaſurer.*
*Lo: Treaſurer.* | *E: of Bridgewater.* | *M. of the Wards.*
*Lo: Preſident.* | *E: of Totnes.* | *M. Secr. Coke.*
*Lo: Steward.* | *E: of Kellie.* | *M. Chancelor of the Exchequer.*
*Lo: Chamberlaine.* | *Lo: Viſc. Conwey.* | *M. of the Rolles.*
*E: of Suffolke.* | *Lo: Biſhop of Bath and Wells.* | *M. Chancelour of the Duchie.*
*E: of Exeter.*
}

SOC. ANTIQ.

THeir Lordſhips this day taking into ſerious conſideration, aſwell the Letters Patents from His Maieſtie to *Mathew de Queſtor*, for the conſtituting of him Poſt-maſter, for the conuey-ing of all Letters and Diſpatches from hence into forraigne Parts without the Kings Domi-nions; as likewiſe well weighing that the due ordering and gouerning of the ſame, was very conſiderable, in relation to His Maieſties Seruice and reaſon of State, eſpecially as the condi-tion of affaires now ſtand, both at home and abroad; and knowing well that moſt of the Forraigne Poſts were heretofore well ſetled, by the labour and induſtrie of the ſaid *de Queſtor*, did thinke fit and order, that he being a perſon well approoued of for his experience, fidelity, and induſtrie, for diuers yeeres together in the diſcharge of the ſaid imployment, ſhould bee continued and quietly eſtabliſhed in the execution of the ſame, according to his ſaid Letters Patents. And vpon reuiew now taken of their Order, of the two and twentieth of Nouember 1626. whereinliberty was giuen, as well to all other Companies of Merchants, as to the Merchants Aduenturers, to ſend their Letters and Diſpatches by Meſſengers of their owne chooſing;

Their Lordſhips vpon weightie reaſon of State, doe heereby reuoke and annull the ſaid Order, and doe giue liberty onely to the Companie of the Merchants Aduenturers (and not to any other Companies of Merchants) to conuey their owne Letters and Diſpatches onely by a Meſſenger of their owne chooſing into Forraigne Parts, *viz.* to the City of *Hamborgh* and Towne of *Delph*, where the Staples of Cloth are now ſetled, or to ſuch other place or places whither the ſame ſhall heereafter happen to bee remooued: Which Meſſenger is likewiſe to enter into ſufficient Bond with good ſureties, to His Maieſties vſe, to bee taken by the Clarke of the Councell attendant, not to carry or conuey any other Letters, but thoſe onely which concerne the ſaid Companie of Merchant Aduenturers.

And that the ſaid Meſſenger ſhall not keepe any publike Office, or hang vp any Tables, or weare any Badge which are the Characters and Markes of a publike Poſt-maſter, and which are to bee allowed onely to the ſaid *Matthew de Queſtor*, as being Poſt-maſter Generall for foreigne Diſpatches, by approbation of the State, and Letters Patents from His Maieſtie, as aforeſaid.

And it is further heereby thought fit, and ordered, that all other Companies of Merchants, and euery of them, ſhall ſend their Letters and Diſpatches by the ſaid *Matthew de Queſtor* onely, as heretofore they haue been accuſtomed; Heereof as well the ſaid Merchants Aduenturers, and all other Companies of Merchants, and euery of them, are to take knowledge, and to conforme themſelues, as they will anſwere the contrary at their perils.

Prouided neuertheleſſe, according to the aforeſaid Order of the two and twentieth of Nouember laſt, that the ſaid Companie of Merchant Aduenturers, doe acquaint His Maieſties Secretaries of State, from time to time, what perſon they ſhall make choice of to bee their Meſſenger, that in caſe they ſhall finde iuſt cauſe to except againſt the choyce made by the ſaid Company, that then the Company ſhould proceed to the election of ſuch other as may bee with-out exception. And prouided alſo, that in times of Warre, and danger to the State, the ſaid Company of Merchant Aduenturers, and all other Companies of Merchants, doe acquaint the Secretaries of State, from time to time (if they ſhall require it) with their ſaid Letters and Diſpatches into foreine parts.

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